



Minutes of the Meeting of Dulverton Town Council

Held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.00pm, using remote video conferencing.

Present: Chairman/Mayor: Mr Gerry Lewis. Councillors: Mrs Christine Dubery; Mr Allan Ottey; Mrs Louise Parrish; Mr John Preston; Mrs Margaret Rawle; Mr Nick Thwaites, (also representing Somerset West & Taunton (S.W.T.)); and Miss Kathryn Vellacott.

Deferment of Business for Comment by the Public: None

Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons offered if agreed:
Cllr. Mrs Frances Nicholson, Somerset County Council (S.C.C.).

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Mrs Chris Dubery with regards the Sports Field Management Committee.

Chairman's Comments & Meeting Management: None

Questions for County and District Councillors:

Mr Nick Thwaites S.W.T. Council:

Local Government Reorganization: The proposal to undertake a local consultation exercise has been deemed legal and will commence as from 18th May 2021 until 13th June 2021. However, there is no guarantee that the Government will take the findings into account. Cllr. Thwaites expressed his concern at the costs accrued by both S.C.C. and the District Councils involving marketing and consultancy. Whatever the outcome there will be further reorganization and job losses.

Car Parking Permits: There still exist ongoing concerns regarding the proposal from SWT to implement an electronic system.

Mrs Frances Nicholson (S.S.C.):

Not present.

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2021 as circulated:

Were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr Preston, seconded by Miss Vellacott and carried.

6670 Update of action points resulting from the last meeting:

6657 Emergency Town Centre Grant:

A permit application is to be submitted to the Environment Agency concerning the use of Exmoor Lawns for a temporary bandstand.

It is hoped that the website will be launched within the next couple of weeks.

Facebook and Instagram are being regularly updated.

The branding project is now complete.

6657 Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund:

Once the new logo, in the correct format, has been obtained a local printer will be sourced.

6669 Leat Path:

E.N.P.A. has confirmed that the path is only a permitted footpath and really is too narrow for horses – they have only been able to do this since the kissing gate was removed at the Lady Street end of the path to make access easier.

Rather than replace the gate which would solve the issue but instantly make access more difficult for certain groups of users, they are proposing in the first instance to put 'No Horses' signs up at each end of the path to try to resolve the issue in the least obstructive way. The situation will be monitored and if the problem persists, other options considered.

6661 All Saints Church Wall – Lady Street:

The work has been completed. The tarpaulin will be removed once the risk of frost has passed.

6671 Accounts:

The Financial Statement – April 2021: Appendix A

RESOLVED: That the Financial Statement as per Appendix A is approved. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Lewis and carried.

Payments for Approval – April 2021: Appendix B

RESOLVED: That the payments as per Appendix B are approved. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

6672 Committees:

Grounds Committee Meeting – 22nd April 2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 16th March 2021 are approved. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mr Ottey and carried.

RESOLVED: As recommended by the Grounds Committee, the quote received from Brian Jones & Associates for £550.00, with regards a site visit and to provide verbal advice, is accepted. Proposed by Mrs Dubery, seconded by Mrs Parrish and carried.

Planning Committee Meeting – 4th May 2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4th May 2021 are approved. Proposed by Mrs Rawle, seconded by Mr Preston and carried

6673 Resignation of Councillor and Co-Option:

The Clerk read to members the resignation letter received from Cllr. Mr Piers Wood. The Chairman has regrettfully accepted the resignation and West

Somerset & Taunton Council have been notified accordingly and the vacancy advertised. Unless ten electors from the Town request an election, members can, at the meeting to be held on Monday 14th June 2021, consider filling the vacancy by the co-option of a new Councillor.

At present there exist two vacancies.

Members were informed that two local residents had shown an interest in applying.

6674 Internal Auditors Report:

The report from the Internal Auditor, having been circulated, was considered by members. No matters of concern were raised.

The Clerk advised that Internet Banking is to be considered at the next Legal & Finance Committee meeting.

6675 Annual Insurance Premium:

RESOLVED: To accept the quote provided by BHIB on a LTA agreement (final year of agreed 3 years), amounting to £891.06. Proposed by Mr Ottey, seconded by Mrs Dubery and carried.

6676 Chairman's Annual Allowance:

RESOLVED: To retain the annual Chairman's annual allowance and increase it to £300.00. Proposed by Mr Thwaites, seconded by Mr Preston and carried.

6677 Late Correspondence:

Correspondence noted by members.

6678 Questions for Members who have attended additional meetings:

Exmoor Medical Centre Patient Group Meeting – 13th April 2021: Attended by Cllr. Mrs Margaret Rawle who circulated a written report.

The vaccination programme is proceeding well.

The Practice is still seeking a GP to replace Dr Colley, however Dr Blackburn is covering the vacancy. The 'Ask My GP' system for appointments has been well received and proved efficient.

Medication reviews are currently being undertaken for all registered patients in their birth month.

Town Hall Committee Meeting – 21st April 2021: Attended by Cllr. Mrs Louise Parrish who circulated a written report.

Several grants have been successfully applied for by Mr Ross. The railings are to be re-painted before the mangers are hung for the summer display. A watering rota has been organised.

A general condition report is to be undertaken before the hall is re-opened. A full risk assessment has been undertaken in anticipation and Covid19 procedures will be implemented.

6679 Issues to be raised with permission of the Chairman:

Dog Fouling: Members of the Town Management Committee are to be asked to consider the provision of a dog bin in Oldberry Lane.

The Clerk was requested to obtain details of costs in anticipation.

Avon & Somerset Police Constabulary: A report received from P.C.S.O. Jo Dawson was read to members.

There have been several incidences of anti-social behaviour, which are currently under investigation. Some of those involved have been identified (some from outside the area, others being local residents), there are still more to contact. Generally crime rates remain low.

Facebook Comments regarding DTC & E.N.P.A.:

In response to various criticisms made on Facebook concerning the policies of both DTC and ENPA, members made the following comments:

- 1) That there needs to be a balance between the preservation of both landscape and wildlife and public accessibility whilst enabling businesses and communities to thrive.
- 2) There needs to be an awareness of changing circumstances and demands, most of the Oldberry Lane development for example would be frowned upon today as being intrusive on the landscape and outside the town boundary regardless of how illustrious its advocates.
- 3) DTC has the responsibility to ensure that the Town remains economically sustainable and to contribute to the quality of life and wellbeing of all of its residents.
- 4) Concern was expressed that the Glover Report, which proposes that all National Park Authorities are amalgamated under one Government Department would result in the views of local people not being heard and considered.

Chairman.....